

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 7-8 with the following amended paragraph.

The application is a ~~continuation~~ division of U.S.S.N. 09/413,958, filed Oct. 7, 1999, now allowed, which claims priority to U.S. provisional application 60/105,805, filed October 27, 1998, now abandoned.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 18, with the following amended paragraph.

FIG. 2 shows quantification of CFU-OB (panel 2A) and osteoclast progenitors (panel 2B) formed in ex vivo bone marrow cell cultures. Marrow cells were obtained from the femurs of male mice after 27 d of exposure to placebo (white bars) or 2.1 mg/kg/d of prednisolone (black bars). Cells from each mouse were cultured separately.